



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, April 28, 2010

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## **U.S. ATTORNEY MEETS WITH MEXICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT TO STRENGTHEN TRANS-BORDER COOPERATION**

MEXICO CITY – United States Attorney Dennis K. Burke traveled to Mexico City Tuesday evening to further progress on cross-border counter-narcotics and complex crime investigative cooperation strategies with high-ranking Mexican Federal law enforcement officials. This is a follow-up to recent meetings in Arizona to advance the Ports of Entry Controlled Substance Prosecution Program conducted with the Procuraduria General del la Republica (PGR).

Strengthening trans-border cooperation will be the focus of a new Trans-Border Rule of Law Unit, Burke announced. Through this Unit the District of Arizona will work with Mexican law enforcement agencies in the State of Sonora to increase capacity to conduct investigations and prosecutions as the Republic of Mexico transitions to an adversarial system of criminal justice. Burke also attended a joint Symposium on the topic held in Mexico City by the PGR and the U.S. Department of Justice.

“Federal prosecutors from the District of Arizona will provide training, assistance and advice at the request of the Mexican Government on how to prosecute their own people, under their own laws, in their own country for crimes impacting both the United States and the Republic of Mexico,” said U.S. Attorney Burke. “This initiative will lead to drug prosecutions before traffickers ever enter our country.”

These cross-border cooperative efforts between federal law enforcement and prosecutors in Arizona will focus and strengthen bilateral efforts between the United States and Mexico to defeat drug cartels and criminal organizations that threaten the national security of the United States.

The District will also join Mexico in innovative programs to prosecute members of criminal gangs and cartels such as the Ports of Entry Controlled Substance Prosecution Program in which load drivers leaving Mexico with narcotics are now, for the first time ever, being prosecuted in Mexico. Successful prosecutions in Mexico represent a step forward in cross-border cooperation that strengthens security along the southwest border, and symbolizes Mexico’s commitment to the rule of law.

RELEASE NUMBER: 2010-073(Mexico.USA)

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